

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

May 17, 2022

The Honorable Isabel Casillas Guzman
Administrator
United States Small Business Administration
409 3rd Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20416

Dear Administrator Guzman:

We are writing to inquire about the conclusion of the Small Business Administration's (SBA) COVID Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program. The history of this program, while beneficial to some small businesses, has been administered haphazardly and has been filled with fraud since the day it commenced. Although it was in operation for over two years, administrative missteps continued to plague and prevent basic communication efforts with small business owners. In similar fashion, the closing of the program has once again raised questions regarding the SBA's ability to manage direct assistance programs.

In a time of need, small business owners require clear, concise, accurate, and timely information. This is especially true of a government program of this magnitude that disbursed hundreds of billions in funding through direct loans and grants to small businesses across the nation. Unfortunately, it has been common to hear that this program has been a blackhole when it comes to communication. From loan level inquiries going unanswered to businesses being stuck in backlogs, this program has tested the mettle of small business owners requiring its services.

In light of the exhaustion of funding on May 5, 2022, and the conclusion of the program, we request a full written response to the following inquiries by May 31, 2022.

- Please outline all communications and notifications made to EIDL applicants regarding the program nearing its conclusion.
- Were applicants contacted directly by SBA staff or was communication limited to portal notifications?
- How many total applications were outstanding as of May 5, 2022, the date that the program exhausted funding and will not be fully processed? Please provide totals for each category below:
 - Original
 - Loan Modification
 - Reconsideration
 - Appeals
 - Awaiting IRS transcripts
 - Non-actionable applications
- Upon the program exhausting all funding, how did the SBA communicate to each applicant that their request will not be fulfilled? Please provide an example of the notification that was sent alerting a small business that their application will not be processed.

- How did the SBA communicate with applicants that were stuck in the backlog? How did the SBA communicate with Congressional offices assisting with their casework prior to funding being exhausted?
- Given the history of runs or the acceleration of lending when a SBA government guaranteed program approaches a deadline, please provide all internal communication and analysis that determined your pre-closure notification to applicants.
- What was the total dollar amount of funding disbursed each day for the 14 days leading up to May 5, 2022?

Advocating for, and on behalf of the nation's small businesses and our constituent businesses will remain a top priority of ours. Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Blaine Luetkemeyer (MO-03)
Ranking Member
Committee on Small Business



Roger Williams (TX-25)
Vice Ranking Member
Committee on Small Business



Pete Stauber (MN-08)
Member of Congress



Dan Meuser (PA-09)
Member of Congress



Claudia Tenney (NY-22)
Member of Congress



Andrew Garbarino (NY-02)
Member of Congress



Young Kim (CA-39)
Member of Congress



Beth Van Duyne (TX-24)
Member of Congress



Byron Donalds (FL-19)
Member of Congress



Maria Salazar (FL-27)
Member of Congress



Scott Fitzgerald (WI-05)
Member of Congress



Bryan Steil (WI-01)
Member of Congress



Brian Mast (FL-18)
Member of Congress



Kat Cammack (FL-03)
Member of Congress



Burgess Owens (UT-04)
Member of Congress



Hal Rogers (KY-05)
Member of Congress



Scott Franklin (FL-15)
Member of Congress